

***"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"***  
***St. Raymond***



## ***Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church***

**8750 Pohick Road  
Springfield, VA 22153**

**WEEKEND MASSES:**  
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am (Latin-  
English), 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES:**  
Monday - Friday:  
6:30 am & 8:30 am  
7:00 pm on Wednesdays  
Saturday: 9:00 am

**Website:** [www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence  
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music  
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate  
Virginia Osella, Director of Religious Education  
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary  
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager  
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager  
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant  
Erin Burns, Receptionist  
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary

### **PARISH OFFICE**

Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535  
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537  
Fax: 703-440-0538

### **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

### **Email**

Church: [Office@straymonds.org](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Pastor: [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto:ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org)

**TUITION ASSISTANCE:** Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the upcoming school year.

### **Angelus Academy**

**7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153  
703-924-3996**

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

### **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)**

**Wednesday Evening**  
6:15 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)

**First Fridays**  
3:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm

**Saturday Morning**  
8:00 - 9:00 am

**Saturday Afternoon**  
3:30 - 5:00 pm

**Sunday Morning**  
8:30-9:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am

### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

First Fridays 9:00 am Friday - 9:00 Saturday (Overnight)

**MARRIAGE:** Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

**OCIA:** The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

**BAPTISM:** Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please submit announcements to [bulletin@straymonds.org](mailto:bulletin@straymonds.org) 10 days prior to publication date.

**Assisted Hearing Devices are available from the Ushers**

## Pastor's Corner

**NOVENA PRAYERS FOR THE ELECTION.** Virginia State Elections are only 9 days away. I ask that all of St. Raymond's parishioners lift up the elections to the Lord Jesus' care. Specifically, I propose that for nine days, beginning today, Sunday, October 26 and ending Monday, November 3, all parishioners join in praying one or more of the following each day: 1) the **Rosary**; 2) the **Novena to St. Thomas More**; and/or 3) the **Prayer for Religious Freedom**. I also propose that we each offer up some small **sacrifice**, perhaps skipping a meal, giving up meat or beef or sweets.

Also, **at the end of all Masses**, before the customary Hail Mary and Prayer to St. Michael, we will pray together **the Prayer for Religious Freedom**.

**SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN: DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.** Next Saturday, November 1, Pope Leo XIV will officially pronounce St. John Henry Newman a "Doctor of the Catholic Church.

**What is a Doctor of the Church?** The EWTN website gives an excellent explanation:

*Traditionally, the title has been granted on the basis of three requirements: the manifest holiness of a candidate affirmed by his or her canonization as a saint; the person's eminence in doctrine demonstrated by the leaving behind of a body of teachings that made significant and lasting contributions to the life of the Church; and a formal declaration by the Church, usually by a pope.*

*While their teachings are not considered infallible, being declared a "doctor" means that they contributed to the formulation of Christian teaching in at least one significant area and this teaching has impacted later generations....*

*Other notable saints who are doctors of the Church include St. Teresa of Ávila, St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Anthony of Padua, and St. Francis de Sales, among others.*

**About St. John Henry Newman.** Newman was the 19th-century's most important English-speaking Roman Catholic theologian, although he spent the first half of his life as an Anglican (Church of England, Episcopalian) and the second half as a Roman Catholic. He was a priest, popular preacher, writer, and eminent theologian in both churches.

Born in London, England, he studied at Oxford's Trinity College, was a tutor at Oriel College, and for 17 years was vicar of the university church, St. Mary the Virgin. He eventually published eight volumes of Parochial and Plain Sermons as well as two novels. His poem, "Dream of Gerontius," was set to music by Sir Edward Elgar.

After 1833, Newman was a prominent member of the Oxford Movement, which emphasized the Church's debt to the Church Fathers and challenged any tendency to consider truth as completely subjective. Historical research made Newman suspect that the Roman Catholic Church was in closest continuity with the Church that Jesus established. In 1845, he was received into full communion as a Catholic. Two years later he was ordained a Catholic priest in Rome and joined the Congregation of the Oratory. Returning to England, Newman founded Oratory houses in Birmingham and London and for seven years served as rector of the Catholic University of Ireland.

Newman eventually wrote 40 books and 21,000 letters that survive. Most famous are his book-length *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, *On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine*, *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, *The Idea of a*

*University* and *Essay on the Grammar of Assent*.

To the surprise of many, especially considering his Anglican background and his status as a mere priest (not a bishop), Newman was named a cardinal in 1879, taking as his motto "Cor ad cor loquitur"—"Heart speaks to heart." He died on August 11, 1890, 11 years later. [Cf., [www.franciscanmedia.org](http://www.franciscanmedia.org)].

Newman was a key inspiration to many of the greatest theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, especially Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, who wrote of him:

"The characteristic of the great Doctor of the Church, it seems to me, is that he teaches not only through his thought and speech but also by his life, because within him, thought and life are interpenetrated and defined. If this is so, then Newman belongs to the great teachers of the Church, because he both touches our hearts and enlightens our thinking."

**Newman's Beloved Hymn.** "Lead, Kindly Light" was written in 1833 by St. John as a poem titled "the Pillar of the Cloud." Since then it has been put to music, and become part of the treasury of Catholic English hymnary.

*Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom, // Lead Thou me on; // The night is dark, and I am far from home, // Lead Thou me on. // Keep Thou my feet; // I do not ask to see the distant scene; // one step enough for me.*

*I was not ever thus, nor prayed that // Thou shouldst lead me on; // I loved to choose and see my path; but now // Lead Thou me on. // I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears, pride ruled my will; // remember not past years.*

*So long Thy power hath blessed me, sure it still // Will lead me on. // O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till // The night is gone; // And with the morn those angel faces smile, // Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.*

**HOLY DAYS.** Next Saturday, November 1, is the **Solemnity of All Saints**, when we remember all the Saints in Heaven, especially those who are not "canonized" (maybe your grandmother or a beloved child). It also reminds us that each of us is called to one day be a saint in Heaven, by living a faithful and holy life here on Earth. However, because it falls on a Saturday this year it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Even so, I encourage you all to attend either the regular 9am Mass, or the special 12noon Mass.

The next day, Sunday, November 2, is the **Commemoration of All Souls**, when we pray for all the souls who are awaiting entrance into Heaven as they are being purified in Purgatory. I invite you all to pray for the dead every day, but especially on this day and throughout the month of November. Because of the special love the Church has for her dead, the Mass for All Souls will be celebrated throughout the Church next Sunday, in place of the regular 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time.

And of course the day before these, Wednesday October 31, is "Halloween." I have concerns about what this celebration has become, especially with rise of paganism and Satanism in our country. Please remember that this week should be mainly about the Saints and Holy Souls, and not evil, satanic or witchy things. And please remind your children that "Halloween" means "Holy Eve," or "All Saints' Eve," and that the candy they receive is only a small foretaste of the sweet delights shared by those who love the Lord, obey His commandments and enter into Heaven.

**Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles**



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, October 27th**

6:30 am Mark Arcobasso  
 8:30 am Joseph Perricone +

**Tuesday, October 28th**

6:30 am Joe Morton +  
 8:30 am Barbara Ann Gresdo +

**Wednesday, October 29th**

6:30 am Rosemary Crennan +  
 8:30 am James Leo Mault +  
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Thursday, October 30th**

6:30 am Klemons Hauroder +  
 8:30 am Pattie Sue Suter

**Friday, October 31st**

6:30 am Elizabeth Fink Swallow  
 8:30 am Dominique Murray

**Saturday, November 1st**

9:00 am Kevin Foley +  
 Noon Gerard Schratz+

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 Deceased Legion of  
 Mary Members +

**Sunday, November 2nd**

7:00 am **Msr. Rippy**  
 All Souls Triduum

9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**  
 Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**  
 All Souls in Purgatory

1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**  
 All Souls in Purgatory

**Please pray for our parishioners serving in Combat Zones and their families.** If you have a relative serving in harm's way and would like to have his/her name included in our prayer list, please contact the parish office.

**Brian Groth Elizabeth Archer Kathleen McGovern**  
**Peter Lawton**

**Please pray for the sick of our parish**

Glenn Bliss	Paul Haynes	Gaudencio Dizon
Michael O'Neill	Nena Brennan	Annette Haynes
Cindy Laird	Serrin Foster	Beth Fitzgibbons
Patricia Lewis	Donald Trayer	Jean Keegan
Mai Pham	Ellen Trayer	Bill Roche
Jason Saenz	Arlene Pietraszko	Florence Miller
Phyllis Zitnik	Virginia Cummings	Robert Petitti
John Florio	Mary M. Dixon	Joann Alba
Carolina Baker	Edward J. Susank	Alicia Tocconi
Debra Henkel	Helen Estabrooks	Jay & Linda Cabacar

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

10/26-27 RE Classes  
 10/27 OCIA Classes  
 10/27 Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am  
 10/27 Family of Jesus prayer group  
 10/28 Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm  
 10/28 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Rm.  
 10/28 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library  
 10/29 Adoration 9am-7pm  
 10/30 Bridge Club  
 10/31 Adoration 9am-3pm  
 10/31 Christ House Meal  
 11/1 Blood Drive— Parish Hall 7am-1pm  
 11/1 Men's Prayer Group  
 1/1 REMINDER-DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
 11/1 All Saints Day— Masses at 9 am and Noon (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)  
 11/1 Communal First Saturday Devotions (Maurer Rm)  
 11/2 All Souls' Day— Masses 5 pm Vigil and Sunday at 7 am, 9 am, 11 am and 1 pm  
 11/1-2 40 Days for Life Witness Weekend  
 11/2 Donut Sunday— Hosted by K of C  
 11/2-4 All Souls Day Triduum of Masses  
 11/3 Chesterton Christ the King Academy Info Session  
 11/4 Election Day  
 11/7 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration  
 11/15 Vander Woude Talk after 9 am Mass

**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass  
 at St. Raymond's**

**[www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)**

**Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am**  
**Saturday at 9:00 am**  
**Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am**  
**(See the website for Holy Days)**

**First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:** We invite you to join us for Communal First Saturday Devotions on **November 1** immediately following 9am Mass. Come participate in this important devotion given to us by Our Lady of Fatima, and learn more about her powerful promises for our current times! Following 9am Mass, we pray the Daily Family Rosary in the Church; and then proceed to the Maurer Room for Fatima prayers & a special meditation on the mysteries, with the intention of consoling our Blessed Mother in reparation of poor sinners. Concludes by 10:30am. All are invited!

**Legion of Mary invitation** Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? The Legion of Mary meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Library. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or 703-627-7320.

**Junior Legion of Mary.** Children between the ages of 7 – 12+ at St. Raymond's who have received their First Holy Communion and parents seeking an extracurricular activity that enriches a young person's spiritual life and engages them in age-appropriate spiritual works of mercy under the spiritual direction of Father Bergida, please consider joining the Junior Legion of Mary. Meetings will be every Tuesday, 4:15-5:15pm, in the rectory Maurer Room. Please email Patty Miller, [pamiller35@gmail.com](mailto:pamiller35@gmail.com), or call / text her at: C - 703-663-0480.

**ALL SOULS DAY TRIDUUM:** St. Raymond's will again be offering a Triduum of Masses for All Souls. The Masses will be celebrated on Nov. 2nd, Nov. 3rd and Nov. 4th. To have your departed loved ones remembered in these Masses, please complete one of the All Souls envelopes in the narthex and place it in the collection basket today or bring it to the parish office by 10/31/25.

**Men's Prayer Group:** On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the parish hall to pray and read the Scriptures. **Our next meeting will be November 1st.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryn-davew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryn-davew7705@gmail.com).

**November 4th is Election Day.** On the ballot is the Virginia Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and House of Delegates. Early voting is now open at the Fairfax County Government Center and the local Early Voting locations will open September 23rd from 1-7 pm. Please see the Voting Flyer on the Table in the Narthex. **REMEMBER: VOTING is a CIVIC duty!**



**REMINDER— Time Changes Nov. 1st:** Daylight Savings Time ends NEXT week-end! Please remember to set your clocks back one hour next Saturday night.



## THE FULLNESS OF KNIGHTHOOD:

Join the Knights! Your very own St. John Bosco Council #12846 has just been awarded **STAR COUNCIL** and received the **STATE DEPUTY AWARD** as one of the most outstanding councils in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These noteworthy awards are only earned by strong Catholic men tirelessly working together to serve their parish, community and their nation. Why not become part of the most impactful Catholic fraternity in the world, grow in your faith, and discover mutual support from a true brotherhood built on shared Catholic values? Now is the **perfect time** to take your place with us. Just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below to experience the Knights **free** for one year. Enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Knights of Columbus informational materials are in the Narthex, please have a look. Please contact our Deputy Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at cell (703) 380-4550 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Get in the game, answer the call, **LIVE FULLY; BECOME A KNIGHT!**



## Upcoming Events:

## OCTOBER

25/26 Annual Coats for Kids Drive (Narthex after all Masses)  
 25/26 INOVA Blood Drive Signup (Narthex after all Masses)  
 30 In Igne Fireside Theological Discussion with Oktoberfest  
 Food and Drink, open to All men. Parish Hall 6:30pm

## NOVEMBER

1 INOVA Blood Drive, Parish Hall 7am- 1pm  
 2 Donut Sunday (After 7am, 9am and 11am)  
 6 Monthly Officer's Meeting (Library, 7 pm)  
 10 MCM Exemplification (Parish Hall, 7 pm Rosary, 7:30 pm general meeting, 8:30 pm refreshments)

**IN IGNE (On Fire):** The Knights of St. John Bosco Council invite all men of the parish to a night of theology and fraternity around the fire pit behind the Parish Hall on Thursday, October 30th at 7pm. Fr. Horkan will lead a theology discussion about Fraternity. In addition, we will have a mini Oktoberfest celebration with German Pretzels, Brats, Potato Salad, and German drinks. You don't have to be a knight to join in and **admission is FREE**. Please RSVP to Barry Ryan at [jamesbarryryan@aol.com](mailto:jamesbarryryan@aol.com) so we make sure to have enough food.

**The Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a blood drive** on behalf of INOVA Blood Donor Services on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> in St. Raymond's parish hall from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either on-line at [www.inovabloodsaves.org](http://www.inovabloodsaves.org) or in the Narthex after all masses in the coming weekends. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or by email at: [mam7253@msn.com](mailto:mam7253@msn.com).

**Coats for Kids!** The Knights of Columbus will be collecting new Coats for Kids after all Masses Oct 25-26. All new coats will be donated to local charities. Monetary donations will also be accepted and will be used to purchase new coats.

**"Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Cards** – From Oct 25-26 to Dec. 6-7, the Knights of Columbus will be selling religious Christmas cards in the Narthex after all the Masses.



## SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE



The fall campaign of 40 Days for Life is underway!! Join us to help change hearts and minds. St Raymond's witness weekend will be **NEXT WEEK-END** 1-2 Nov in front of the Falls Church 'Healthcare' Center. (900 S Washington Street). Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Join us in this peaceful prayerful presence as we witness to the

sanctity of human life. This is a spiritual battle. Bring a friend – and – bring your Rosary!

**PROJECT MANGER** is next weekend! Join our Knights of Columbus as we collect monetary donations for cribs for families in need. Look for a Knight after all the Masses. God bless you for providing a 'manger' for a baby in need.

**WARNING.** There is a fast-tracking move afoot in the Virginia Assembly to secure abortion as a constitutional human right in our Commonwealth. Both chambers of the VA Assembly approved a constitutional amendment which would allow abortion at any point in pregnancy. The amendment *cannot be vetoed by the governor* and would eliminate parental consent, health protections for women and girls, force taxpayers to fund abortion and eliminate our current law limiting abortion at 27 weeks. **Storm heaven!!** Pray and fast that this evil effort be thwarted. **Speak Up!!** Sample letters to members of the General Assembly are available in the narthex. Call your representatives!

**A MOM'S Peace is a Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls.** By discretely supporting mothers with burial, bereavement and remembrance programs, they lovingly guide families through difficult decisions in the immediate wake of loss. A Mom's Peace exists to fulfill the corporal and spiritual works of mercy "bury the dead" and "comfort the sorrowful." Kara Palladino, founder of this ministry, will be available in the narthex after the **7pm Mass on Wednesday 5 November** to visit with you and answer questions.

**MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center...** is very grateful for our continued support! Donations welcome in the narthex collection box near the elevator. Greatest needs: **winter coats up to 2T**, diapers, formula, wipes, winter clothes up to 2T. Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers. Thank you for understanding.

**To those who have suffered an abortion:**

"Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. **The Father of Mercies** is ready to give you His Forgiveness and His Peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation." **Project Rachel** helps women and men who are carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Men: (703) 841-3833. Confidentiality always respected. [www.helpafterabortion.org](http://www.helpafterabortion.org).

**THE ABORTION PILL** now accounts for 65% of all abortions. Women often regret the desperate isolated decision to take the abortion pill. **Call the abortion reversal helpline 855-209-4848. It may not be too late.** [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com).

**THE POWER OF PRAYER.** Abortionists and those who work in the abortion industry trespass against us. Yet how much more they offend Almighty God! Every abortion deforms the abortionist and desensitizes him or her to the humanity of both the mother and child violated through abortion. **Pray fervently for the conversion of abortionists.** Somehow, they have been led astray by greed, ignorance, a misguided sense of compassion or perhaps evil itself.

**Save the date: National March for Life Friday 23 January 2026!** Stay tuned for details.



## St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate



### Meal Contributions Needed:

Are you able to contribute some snacks or heavy hors d'oeuvres one Sunday evening for our high school youth group to enjoy? More details can be found online at <https://bit.ly/feedthehungryteens>. We are also looking for folks who would be willing to contribute a breakfast casserole or other meatless dish one Friday this semester. More details at <https://bit.ly/breakfastfriday>

### 11/1: Saturday (10:15am-1pm)

#### 40 Days for Life Prayerful Pro-Life Witness & Chick-Fil-A

7-12th Graders, please join us in praying outside the abortion clinic in Falls Church to change hearts and save lives. Bring your rosary and a friend. We will pray for an hour followed by milkshakes and fellowship at Chick-Fil-A. We will car pool from St. Raymond's. Chaperones needed. *Permission slips* available at <http://bit.ly/YAforms> or on bulletin boards, *due Tuesday, 10/28*.

### 11/2: High School Youth Group

**6:30-7pm** Dinner will be served in the parish hall after RE  
**7-8pm** HS Youth Group— Guest Speakers tonight for college night! Parents are invited/encouraged to stay for this one!

### 7-8pm Sunday 11/2: College Night Returns (Parish Hall)

Calling all college-bound high schools - yes, even if you are in 9th or 10th grade. **Parents are also welcome and encouraged to attend.** Parishioner, Bob Laird, and recent Christendom Grad, Nick Reilly, will walk you through the do's and do not's. Bob has led a college admissions working group at The Cardinal Newman Society where both of them are currently employed.

### Tuesday 10/28: Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

#### 7-8:30pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday's (Maurer Room)

**ALL High School Ladies are invited** to become part of our authentic sisterhood in Christ, deepening our faith, sharing life & growing in holiness. It's a real special time of friendship together, immersing ourselves in the Good, True & Beautiful.

### Every Friday in October : 6:30am Mass & Breakfast

**Calling all 7-12th Graders:** Add Mass before class as a part of your Friday sacrifice, then come downstairs for breakfast with Fr. Bergida & Fr. Horkan before school! Please RSVP if you can, at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVPS>

**NO Friday Cor Jesu:** Cor Jesus is on hiatus until Advent 12/5

### MOUNT2000 Eucharistic Retreat (Feb. 6-8)

**Open to all high school students!** Mount 2000 is a weekend Eucharistic retreat that includes Mass, Adoration, Confession, exciting speakers and musicians, and breakout sessions led by seminarians. The total cost for the retreat is \$130. For more information, including this year's speakers, visit [mount2000.com](http://mount2000.com). \*We will leave after school, at 4pm on Friday.\* More details and registration information are on YA bulletin boards and website.

**3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pro-Life Essay Contest** for students in grades 3-12, regardless of where he or she goes to school, can enter the contest. Visit [prolifeessay.com](http://prolifeessay.com) for the prompts, prizes, and submission guidelines! **Due November 7.**



**Jeanne Sause**

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

[youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

*Email Jeanne to be added to the weekly email list for the most updated info on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!*

A new **YA Info. Sheet** is **REQUIRED** to be turned in once **each school year** for every child *prior to* participating in any Youth Apostolate event on or off site. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Happy Solemnity of All Saints this week!** Consider going to Mass on **Sat. Nov. 1 at 9am or noon**, to celebrate the great gift of all the saints, our heavenly friends (not a Holy Day of Obligation this year). Consider finding a saint movie on Formed to enjoy as a family this weekend!

**Mass Attendance Cards: Parents of students in grades 2, 7 and 8** are reminded that your child **should be submitting a Mass attendance card** every time they attend **weekend Mass** (Saturday vigil / Sunday Masses). If your child attends Mass at a parish other than St. Raymond's, please pick up a bulletin, ask a priest or deacon to sign it if possible, **write the child's name** on it, and then drop it off in the RE Office at your earliest convenience.

**John Paul the Great's Fall Open House - Sunday November 2, 2025** Save-the-date! John Paul the Great's Fall Open House will be held on Sunday November 2, 2025 from 1-4pm. This year's Open House will be fun for the whole family! Learn more about our rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, competitive athletics, inspiring visual and performing arts, and abundant extracurricular opportunities! RSVP Today! Use the following link to RSVP: [https://jpthegreat.fsenrollment.com/portal/new\\_inquiry](https://jpthegreat.fsenrollment.com/portal/new_inquiry)

**Do you desire a more meaningful prayer life?** Perhaps God is inviting you to an intercessory prayer ministry that helps keep a sense of awe and gratitude for His presence through His priests. Please consider joining the Seven Sisters Apostolate who prays an hour specifically for our St. Raymond's priests (at the church during a time you choose). Each priest at St. Raymond's should have at least one sister praying for him each day of the week. Join one of the Seven Sisters teams, or join as a Substitute. Visit [www.sevensistersapostolate.org](http://www.sevensistersapostolate.org). Please contact Renee LeBoeuf for more information [renee.leboeuf@gmail.com](mailto:renee.leboeuf@gmail.com).

We are Looking for Families for our **Christmas Giving Tree**. Each year, St. Raymond's "adopts" families who need help with Christmas. If your family, or someone you know could use help providing gifts for their children, please let the parish office know. The information is kept completely confidential! The office phone number is 703-440-0535. Please apply by October 31st.

**CHRIST HOUSE-WE NEED A CO-LEADER IN 2026!** Please consider co-leading this most important ministry, so many are in need of a good meal and fellowship. For more information, call the Parish office at 703-440-0535.

**CHRIST HOUSE MEAL HOSTING** – Oct 31st - Cash Donations Only. This quarter, we are requesting cash donations in lieu of food items. The committee will order 72 hot, prepared meals to be distributed at Christ House In Alexandria. Please drop off your cash or check donations at the Parish Office or you can make a donation via Faith Direct at this link: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/VA64/54793>.



### **Our Lady of Ransom Scholarships to Catholic Schools are Available.**

Please send requests for 2025-26 tuition assistance to Fr. De Celles or contact the parish office for more information. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.

**CHURCH PERSECUTED**

Most states have what is known as a reporting law for sexual abuse cases. It states that certain individuals such as teachers, childcare workers, police officers, counselors, and even health care professionals, etc., are required by law to report any case of sexual abuse that they may encounter. In many cases, clergy are included in the list with an explicit exemption for Catholic (and Orthodox) priests who are bound by their vocation never to reveal what is told in the confessional. Some of us may remember old movies where an individual commits a crime, and then runs into the confessional to tell the priest knowing that the priest cannot reveal the sacramental conversation in the confessional.

Two weeks ago (October 12, 2025) we reported that Christian law firms recognize such legal overreach and are available on a pro bono basis to assist those negatively impacted by the law (in this case the Catholic and Orthodox dioceses in Washington state and others) and file suit. The basis of the suit is that such actions violate the religious liberty protections afforded in the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

In a previous column (May 11, 2025), we reported that the state of Washington became the first state to pass a law “to explicitly eliminate legal protections for the sacred seal of confession in abuse-related cases.”

Recently, with strong pressure from plaintiffs represented by Alliance Defending Freedom, the state agreed to permanently prohibit the enforcement or attempted enforcement of that law as it pertains to the seal of confession. The legal language is that the Defendants (the state) “are permanently enjoined...from enforcing or attempting to enforce [the law in question] as applied to information communicated solely in other sacred confidences made to a clergy member’s professional character for which disclosure is prohibited in the course of discipline by the church to which the clergy member belongs.”

Furthermore, the Defendants agreed not to pursue further legal action in this case. If you enjoy reading legal documents, you can find the final order here.

<https://adfmedia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/orthodoxchurchstipulatedorder.pdf>

# FORMED®

**Get In-Formed!**

*See the Formed bulletin board by the central doors of the vestibule for additional suggestions.*

**Watch: *Teresa of the Andes*** A beautiful, epic mini-series produced in Chile that tells the story of the inspiring life of the new young Carmelite saint who lived in the 20th century, died at the age of just 19 years old, and was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1993. St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes, known officially as “St. Teresa of the Andes”, grew up in a close-knit, upper middle class Catholic family in Santiago, Chile, was very popular with her friends and relatives, entered Carmel at age 19, and died before her 20th birthday. Though she was a Carmelite for less than a year, she possessed a refreshing sanctity and message that will resonate with all lovers of Christ, especially with the youth of today.

**Read ebook: *Catholic Street Evangelization*** This ebook begins with the inspiring story of Steve Dawson—his dramatic conversion to Catholicism as a young man and his founding of St. Paul Street Evangelization, an international apostolate that has grown to hundreds of teams in seven countries in just a few years. Also included are other moving stories of conversion and witness. The authors are ordinary Catholics who have come to love Christ so much that they now talk about Him with total strangers in public places—street corners, parks, and shopping areas.

**Watch Kids: *St. Elizabeth of Hungary-Littlest Saints*** A group of kids stages a play about St. Elizabeth of Hungary, focusing on her love for the poor and her devotion to serving others. The episode highlights her life, including the Miracle of the Roses, where her hidden acts of charity are revealed.

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**QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)** If you are 70 1/2 or more, please consider making an IRA Charitable gift to the parish before December 31. If you are 73 or older and need to make required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, your QCD counts toward your annual RMD for the year. **QCDs can have a significant tax benefit for you.** Eligible accounts for QCDs can be made from most IRAs, including Traditional IRAs, Rollover IRAs, Inherited IRAs, and Roth IRAs. **Always consult your Tax professional regarding your specific situation.** Use our parish address: St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA 22153

**Chesterton Academy of Christ the King**, a small co-ed classical high school that is part of the international Chesterton Schools Network, will be opening at St. Lawrence Catholic Church next fall. Chesterton Academies are known for their strong Catholic identity anchored in daily school Mass, rigorous classical curriculum, screen-free socratic seminar format, and affordable tuition. A parent information session will be held November 3 at St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church, and a prospective student bonfire will be held at St. Lawrence on November 15. Visit [Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org](https://Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org) to learn more, to join our mailing list, or to apply. The priority application deadline for rising freshmen is Friday, December 19, 2025.

**PARISHSOFT- FORMERLY FAITH DIRECT:** Faith Direct has now changed to ParishSoft. The New login URL is ParishSOFT Giving-Login. To donate or sign up, please visit our website: <https://straymonds.org> and choose the Faith Direct button on the upper right of the front page of the website. eGiving helps you provide regular support to St. Raymond’s, even when you are out of town. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

**Next Second Collection is Nov. 9– Archdiocese for Military Services USA**

**Sunday Offertory 10/19/25**

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